

NSC BRIEFING

20 DECEMBER 1955

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REVIEWER: 372044
BACKGROUND

ARAB PROPAGANDA AND JORDAN RIOTS

- I. Beginning with General Templer's arrival in Amman on 6 December, Cairo has denounced the Baghdad Pact as a "Zionist-imperialist alliance" which "emerges with new plots against the Arabs every day," and bitterly opposing Jordanian adherence.
 - A. On 14 December, the day before rioting began in West Jordan, Cairo broadcast: "O people of Jordan, hold on with your Arab brothers. Arabism has not yet been defeated and will never retreat before imperialist or Zionist pressure.... Your determination and power of faith will inevitably gain your objectives despite the machinations of your enemies."
 - B. On 15 December, Cairo radio press broadcast an article from Al-Jumhuriyah (organ of the Revolutionary Command Council) saying "While Gen. Templer was at work in Jordan, the treacherous Zionist armies were supplementing the 'masked terror' applied on Jordan with 'open terror' in the form of raids on Syrian guard posts. All this serves the major imperialist plot...."
- II. Also from Cairo came the first report of a "Jordanian" demonstration against the pact.
 - A. Before the outbreak of trouble in Jordan, the Cairo office of the Arab News Agency distributed a story telling of a protest meeting of Jordanian students in Cairo, who had sent a telegram to Nasr urging Egypt "to help the Jordanian people save their country."

III. On 19 December, while the anti-Pact riots were at their height, Cairo's "Voice of Palestine" broadcast "the pressure and coercion now in evidence in Jordan are expressions of the crooked policy of the Western powers. Despite the strong opposition toward and the categorical rejection by the Jordan people of this (Baghdad) pact, ... we continue to witness various types of hateful imperialistic operations directed against Jordan in order to force it to accede to the pact."